

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An exhaust emission control device of an internal combustion engine, comprising:  
a CO oxidation catalyst; and  
a H<sub>2</sub>O trap disposed upstream of and close to the CO oxidation catalyst so dimensioned that adsorption heat and condensation heat of H<sub>2</sub>O contribute to a rise in temperature of the CO oxidation catalyst, the H<sub>2</sub>O trap being supported separately from the CO oxidation catalyst.

2-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) An exhaust emission control device of an internal combustion engine according to claim 1, wherein the CO oxidation catalyst has low temperature light-off characteristics.

8. (Original) An exhaust emission control device of an internal combustion engine according to claim 1, further comprising a secondary air supply unit disposed upstream of the H<sub>2</sub>O trap.

9. (Original) An exhaust emission control device of an internal combustion engine according to claim 1, further comprising a HC trap disposed upstream of the H<sub>2</sub>O trap.

10. (Original) An exhaust emission control device of an internal combustion engine according to claim 1, further comprising:

a secondary air supply unit disposed upstream of the H<sub>2</sub>O trap; and

a HC trap disposed upstream of the secondary air supply unit.

11. (Currently Amended) An exhaust emission control device of an internal combustion engine, comprising:

a low temperature light-off CO oxidation catalyst;  
a H<sub>2</sub>O trap disposed upstream of and close to the CO oxidation catalyst so dimensioned that adsorption heat and condensation heat of H<sub>2</sub>O contribute to a rise in temperature of the CO oxidation catalyst, the H<sub>2</sub>O trap being supported separately from the CO oxidation catalyst;  
a secondary air supply unit disposed upstream of the H<sub>2</sub>O trap; and  
a HC trap disposed upstream of the secondary air supply.

12. (Cancelled)